

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed on November 8, 2004, in which a requirement was made to elect a species for prosecution on the merits, to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Specifically, the Examiner contended that the application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention: species I (FIGS. 2A-2B, first embodiment), species II (FIGS. 3A-3B, second embodiment) and species III (FIG 4, third embodiment).

The Applicant hereby elects species I identified above. Of previously pending claims 1-20, claims 1-10 and 16-20 read on the elected species (that is, claims 11-15 do not appear to read on the elected species).

With this Amendment, claims 11-20 have been canceled without prejudice.

With this Amendment, new claims 41-51 have been added. Of these claims, claims 41-46 and 49-51 read on the elected species (that is, claims 47 and 48 do not appear to read on the elected species).

New independent claim 41 and dependent claims 49-51 are generic to all three species identified by the Examiner.

As a result of this Amendment, all of the remaining pending claims (1-10 and 41-51) either (a) read on elected species I (claims 1-10, 41-46 and 49-51) or (b) are written in dependent form to depend from a claim that is generic to all species (claims 47 and 48, which depend from generic claim 41). Consideration and allowance of all pending claims 1-10 and 41-51 are accordingly respectfully requested.

First Named Inventor: Chuan-Cheng Tu

Application No.: 10/657,379

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Respectfully submitted,

KINNEY & LANGE, P.A.

Date: _____

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By: _____



Alan M. Koenck, Reg. No. 43,724

THE KINNEY & LANGE BUILDING

312 South Third Street

Minneapolis, MN 55415-1002

Telephone: (612) 339-1863

Fax: (612) 339-6580

AMK